

APPENDIX J

CATEGORIES AND DEFINITION FOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS)

The purpose of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is to inventory the existing recreation situation and provide options for future recreation management on the public lands within the Planning Area.

Recreation opportunities within the Planning Area are classified according to the following nine physical, social, and administrative attributes:

1. **Degree of Development.** Degree that highway or other municipal, industrial, or commercial structures are present.
2. **Degree of Natural Resource Modification.** Degree that the visitors are aware that the natural resources have been altered by human activity, technology, or development.
3. **Degree that Natural Ambiance Dominates the Area.** Degree that there is a sense of tranquility and opportunity to see, hear, and smell nature.
4. **Degree of Visitor Presence.** Degree that the sights, sounds, and smells of other visitors, their equipment, their impacts, or litter are present.
5. **Degree of Recreation Diversity.** Degree that there is a mixture of recreation activities being participated in or equipment being used.
6. **Degree of Solitude and Remoteness.** Degree that visitors view themselves as being alone and far away from civilization in a wild and remote place.
7. **Degree of Management Presence.** Degree that management personnel, patrols, signs, equipment, restrictions, security lighting, or interpretive programs are present.
8. **Degree of Public Access.** Degree that developed access facilities are present.
9. **Degree of Developed Recreation Facilities and Sites.** Degree that developed campgrounds, parking areas, picnic sites, nature trails, restroom facilities, or other amenities is present.

Visitor use patterns within the Planning Area are year round. Visitors primarily participate in camping, OHV riding, hunting, target shooting, hiking, rock hounding, wildlife viewing, 4x4 touring, and horse back riding. The ROS inventory and proposed ROS prescriptions reflect the social and administrative settings.

Recreation opportunities range from urban to primitive and are defined below. These definitions are meant to provide general guidelines for the appropriate levels of

recreation management and convey to the public the types of recreation opportunities available. The definitions are not meant to restrict or authorize management and administrative actions, and the ECFO would continue to determine the appropriate levels of recreation management to protect natural and cultural resources and human health and safety on a case-by-case basis.

Urban Recreation Experience. Area provides very limited opportunities to see, hear, and smell the natural resources because of the extensive level of development, human activity, and natural resource modification; watching and meeting other visitors is expected and desired; large group activities are popular; opportunity to briefly relieve stress and to alter everyday routines is important; socializing with family and friends is important; large groups and families are common; a high sense of safety, security, comfort, and convenience is central and dominant; the mix of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from those of relaxation and contemplation to those of physical exertion, thrills, excitement and challenge; area is often attractive to short-term visitors, tours, and school groups; area may serve as a staging area for visitors traveling on to areas with non-urban recreation settings.

Suburban Recreation Experience. Area provides limited or little opportunity to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because of the widespread and very prevalent level of development, human activity, or natural resource modification; watching and meeting other visitors is expected and desired; opportunity to briefly relieve stress and to alter everyday routine is important; families are common; a high sense of safety, security, comfort, and convenience is central and dominant; the mix of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to physical exertion, thrills, excitement, and challenge; learning about the natural and cultural history of the area is important to some; area is popular with local residents or long-term visitors.

Rural Developed Recreation Experience. Area provides occasional or periodic opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because of the common and frequent level of development, human activity, or natural resource modification; opportunity to experience brief periods of solitude and change from everyday sights and sounds is important; socialization within and outside one's group is typical and the presence of other visitors is expected; opportunity to relieve stress and to alter everyday routines is important; a moderate level of comfort and convenience is important; a sense of safety and security is important; the array of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to physical exertion and challenge; area is typically attractive for day-use and weekend visits from regional metropolitan areas and smaller nearby communities.

Rural Natural Recreation Experience. Area provides prevalent opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are occasional and infrequent; socialization with others is expected and tolerated; opportunity to relieve stress and to get away from built

environment is important; a high sense of safety, security, comfort and convenience is not important nor expected; a sense of independence and freedom with a moderate level of management presence is important; moments of solitude, tranquility, and nature appreciation are important; experiences tend to be more resource-dependent, although may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to socialization, to physical exertion and challenge; area is typically attractive to extended weekend visitors using recreation vehicles, tents, or rustic cabins.

Semi-primitive Recreation Experience. Area provides widespread and very prevalent opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are seldom encountered; opportunity to experience a natural ecosystem with little human imprint is important; a sense of challenge, adventure, risk, and self-reliance is important; solitude and lack of contact with other visitors, managers, and facilities is important; the recreation experiences tend to be more resource-based; a sense of independence, freedom, tranquility, relation, nature appreciation and wonderment, testing skills, and stewardship is typical; area provides opportunities for the more adventure-based enthusiasts. Overnight visits are typically car and tent camping far from modern conveniences and facilities. Knowledge of survival skills is critical to visitor safety. Topography, an absence of existing roads, or resource protection measures may limit motorized access.

Primitive Recreation Experience. Area provides extensive opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are rare; opportunity to experience natural ecosystems with very little and no apparent human imprint is paramount; natural views, sounds, and smells dominate; a sense of solitude, tranquility, challenge, adventure, risk, orienteering, and self-reliance is important; a sense of freedom, tranquility, humility, relaxation, nature appreciation, wonderment, and stewardship is central and dominant; overnight visitors tent camp with no modern facilities; adventure travelers are often attracted to the undisturbed wild settings.

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